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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend R.J. Barber, of Danville, VA.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we come to You in solemn prayer as our Senate opens its deliberations for this day. We express our deep gratitude for the unmeasured blessings You have bestowed upon this Nation. We honor our Founding Fathers whose sacrifice and wisdom birthed this Nation under Your divine guidance. We marvel at the unbroken success of this experiment in democracy.

We bow in gratitude for the protection of Your Almighty hand through all of our wars, from Valley Forge to Baghdad. We thank You for the men and women, both past and present, who have served so nobly in our Armed Forces. We ask Your comfort for all of the families who have suffered in our latest war.

Where we have broken Your commandments, forgive us. Lead us in the uncharted waters of the future. Guard our hearts from pride. As we face the great issues of our time, may we be mindful of Your holy laws and our accountability to You, our righteous Judge. May You guide the deliberations of this body. May we seek to do justice and walk humbly with our God. Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by Thy might, great God, our King. All of these favors and blessings we ask in the name of our Lord. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, momentarily we will be voting on passage of the resolution of ratification for a historic treaty. Members are gathering now for this important vote. Therefore, I will defer my comments on today's schedule until later.

At this time we will proceed with the final remarks prior to the vote.

### ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following this vote, the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair in order for Members to greet our guests.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NATO EXPANSION TREATY

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will go into executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 6, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolution of Ratification to Accompany Treaty Document No. 108-4, Protocols to the

North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is recognized prior to the vote on the resolution of ratification.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the Senate comes together this morning to ratify the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the NATO alliance. It will be a truly historic vote in the Senate and a most important day in the histories of these nation-states. I am hopeful the Senate will support overwhelmingly this remarkable foreign policy initiative.

When President Bush made his first trip to Warsaw Europe 2 years ago, he strongly voiced in his Warsaw address the U.S. commitment to Europe generally and to NATO in particular. Now, at a moment when relations with some of our European allies are strained, a clear showing of bipartisan support for NATO enlargement takes on added importance. The affirming message of the first round of enlargement led to improved alliance capabilities and strengthened transatlantic ties. I am confident that this second round will do the same. The eyes of a hopeful and expectant world are upon us. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution of ratification.

I would like to direct the attention of Senators to the balcony above where we are joined today by the Foreign Ministers of the seven aspirant states. They have come together with us today to witness our actions and to join with us on the Senate floor at the completion of the vote. At noon they will be hosted by the Secretary of State for lunch at the State Department and later by President Bush at a Rose Garden ceremony. Their presence, here today, is a personal witness to the close relationship our nations will enjoy as partners in the NATO Alliance.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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